



## Principal's Newsletter 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Parents

I can scarcely believe that the first term is now over and that we are anticipating a week's break to recuperate from a busy time. Certainly the last few weeks have been particularly hectic with much going on and many successes. It has been good that many of these have been associated with you as parents who, through the PSP, have contributed much.

### THE CO-CURRICULUM

This was seen most dramatically through the super heroes' day organized by the PSP which saw Dr William Tan speaking movingly about his struggles against disability and illness. His inspirational talk was followed later in the day by a more lighthearted gathering where our students enjoyed a variety of delicious offerings before working as teams to produce a musical item using no more than hollow plastic tubes; they then had the opportunity to meet two of their own superheroes from Marvel comics. The PSP then supported the student-inspired and produced production of *Monty Python* which revealed considerable talent in an excellent rendition of the wacky comedy series. I was really impressed by the commitment shown by cast and crew in putting together a most enjoyable, entertaining and polished offering. Particular praise must go to Joshua Griffiths and Reginald Kent for their initiative in setting up the production and leading it to fruition. This is one dramatic (*sic*) illustration of the capability and leadership of our students who really have demonstrated so readily the vision which this school espouses. I look forward to many similar productions in the future and hope that its success will inspire others to initiate activities in all spheres of School life and produce real quality as a consequence.

### NEW STAFF

We were pleased to welcome two new members of staff at the end of this term:

**Mr Lee Siew Tong** will teach mathematics. He has a BSc in Mathematics from NUS, where he also gained his PGDE. In a varied career he has taught at NUS High School of Mathematics and Science, and at St. Andrew's JC, as well as working as a statistical officer in Kangar Kerbau Hospital.

**Mrs Stella McIntyre** joins the English Department. A resident of Canada she has had extensive experience in education in Egypt and the UK, both as a teacher and as an examiner. She has an honours degree from Huddersfield and a PGCE from Leeds. She has had much experience in the whole business of teaching and learning, and has been heavily committed to drama and the performing arts.

We will also be joined over the next few months by four new members of staff:

**Ms Chong Lee Lan to teach Chemistry for one term w.e.f. 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.**

Ms Chong gained her BSc (honours) in chemistry at the University of Bradford in the UK and has further related qualifications from the Universities of Toronto and Essex, and from the NIE and NTU here in Singapore. She has taught in a variety of schools including Hwa Chong International, Loyang Damai, St. Joseph's Convent and the Singapore School in Shanghai (an IB School).

**Mr Chan Tien Hsiang to teach Economics w.e.f. 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010**

Mr Chan was educated in Hong Kong and took his B.A. (honours) degree from the University of Nottingham in the UK; he gained his diploma in teaching of business English at the University of Leeds, also in the U.K. He is currently teaching at Hwa Chong International School but has also taught at SSTC and the Australian International School. Prior to teaching he ran his own business in China.

**Ms Komathy Kuppusamy to teach Chemistry w.e.f. 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Ms Kuppusamy was educated in Singapore with a BSc from NUS and a PGDE from NIE. She is currently working at Unity Secondary School and has an interest in sport, particularly netball.

**Ms Lim Pai Lin Grace to teach Chemistry w.e.f. 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

Ms Lim gained her BSc from NUS and then took a PGDE at NTU. She is currently at Emaar International School but has also worked as an organic chemist.

I was pleased with the quality of applicants for these posts and know that you will join with me in welcoming them as they become part of our community.

**ACADEMIC MATTERS**

I hope that real quality will also be apparent when the Term One Report is received. Unfortunately this will not be available until the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> March: technical difficulties with our new database means that further work will be required to produce the reports and I hope that you will be patient and understanding of the situation. I am confident, however, that the new system, when fully operational, will be much superior to the previous version but of course any new system like this will take a little time to bed-in properly. Thank you again for your patience over this slight delay to the release of the reports.

I was delighted that the School was represented for the first time in the South East Asian Mathematics Competition in Hong Kong: 71 teams representing 213 students provided a challenging environment for our own mathematicians but they rose to the challenge and acquitted themselves well. The team of Kongkrisch Limwattanaphan, Gha Joon Ho and Li Meng Chan managed to achieve 47<sup>th</sup> place overall which was a creditable achievement.

I have taken the liberty of attaching at the end of my newsletter details of the Morrisby a Guidance Service which may be of interest to students in Years 3 to 6 when considering their subject choices and career opportunities. I have seen this profiling system used in many schools and know that it has been useful to students who are confused or uncertain about their future direction.

**SPORT**

No such confusion has been apparent in the sporting arena in recent weeks. Our rugby team recorded two good wins in recent matches: a narrow 10-5 win against Admiralty was followed by a much more convincing display when Bedok South were dispatched 22-5. Our

girls touch-rugby side also achieved a pleasing win in their first match against SJI International.

Similarly successful have been our badminton teams. The under-sixteen boys beat the German European School 5-0, then going on to victory against UWC 4-1; the Singapore American School then fell 5-0. Not to be out done the under-sixteen girls' team won 3-2 against the German European School. Against Chatsworth the under-nineteen boys achieved a good victory, 5-0. Although other teams were not as successful games were lost by narrow margins which points to an encouraging development of strength in this sport.

It is also encouraging to report that Megan Loke has been selected to participate in a golf talent competition organized by the Singapore Island Country Club.

Debating is also developing well here. I was very pleased to learn recently of the success of our team in the second round of the Singapore Secondary Schools Debating Championship: the team of Maxine Tan, Ashvin Niruttan and RM Anand beat Bedok South in a convincing display which saw Ashvin being rated best speaker.

### **VISITS & TRIPS**

We were pleased to be able to welcome to the School a group of students from the Bangkok Christian College with whom we hope to develop some strong links both at student and staff level. They spent a morning experiencing lessons and activities as part of their visit to Singapore.

Many of our students will participate in the OBS camps next term and we have arranged a presentation for parents on the **23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7:00pm**: full details will be available through your sons and daughters.

The next week will be busy for many of our students as our Year 6 Geography students participate in field work in Malacca to collect data for their coursework. The Model United Nations programme has two conferences in the course of the next two weeks at which the school will be represented: one will be here in Singapore and a team will also travel to St. Petersburg in Russia. Topics to be debated will include water-related migration, changing land use, Afghanistan, the role of the G20 and the reform of the Security Council. I think many of us would like to be involved in such an opportunity!

Our Christian fellowship will be enjoying a trip to the Cameron Highlands to enjoy spiritual reflection in the glory of nature.

We also hope to arrange a touch-rugby and rugby tour to Kuala Lumpur in April: students have already been briefed about this and I hope that final numbers will be confirmed at the start of Term two.

We have also heard recently from the Principal of the School we support in Zimbabwe and I would like to quote from part of his letter. He writes: *We are so grateful for the plans you have for the science department as it is true that it needs repair and more equipment. Your assistance will go a long way to ease the situation. My students are very good at science and they can't wait. Despite the hardships we are facing in the education sector we are managing and I would like to salute and thank ACS (International) for your book donation and your support. I have mentioned this to the Secretary of Education and the Minister of Education and Culture and they will write thanking you.*

It is really quite humbling to hear such news and to recognize the impact that we can have in less fortunate parts of the world.

On a not-unrelated note, I should also mention that our students organized a movie marathon recently to raise money for the annual 'cleaners' day out'. A remarkable total of **S\$860.00** was raised for this trip which will see students taking the cleaners out for the day and other students doing their duties in School during their absence.

As you will recognize the busyness of the last few weeks means that we are ready for a short break; I do hope that you will all be able to enjoy this with your families and that we will all return safely and rejuvenated for the start of term 2.

With my warmest good wishes

Yours sincerely  
P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles  
Principal

## **THE MORRISBY GUIDANCE SERVICE**

**Dear Parents/Guardians:**

**Please take a few minutes to read the information below on Morrisby Guidance Service (MGS). *We will only provide this service in school if there are good responses from parents.***

### **What is it?**

The Morrisby Profile is a battery of Psychometric Tests designed to help people make vocational and academic related decisions. It is suitable for students in Years 3 to Year 6. It is a unique test which combines 3 elements within the profile.

The elements are:

- a) Aptitudes and Abilities
- b) Personality Traits (as applied to the working environment)
- c) Interests

### **Who is providing this service?**

A UK company called Morrisby Organisation.

### **How does it help in School?**

- Assist with **subject choices**
- Help to recognise **preferred learning style**
- Enhance **study and revision skills**
- **Maximise results by**

- identifying appropriate styles
- focusing on subject choices and highlighting potential

### **Beyond School:**

- Identifying learning styles & study skills are important in distinguishing higher education options
- Career suggestions may broaden your horizons and show the links between careers and the subjects required for them
- Helps you think more about yourself and your strengths
- Shows a range of opportunities for you to explore

### **How is the test carried out?**

**First**, the student will fill in a Questionnaire on the exams he/she is planning to take, the types of works he/she might like to do. This will take about forty minutes and can be done at home or school.

**Next**, the student will complete 12 paper and pencil tests called the Morrisby Profile which normally takes about 3 hours to complete.

These are not like examination papers. These exams don't check on what you have learnt but look at what you could do. Nobody can pass or fail and there's no revision either.

### **How much will it cost?**

Approximately S\$300.00

For more information, please visit [www.morrisby.com](http://www.morrisby.com) or email Ms Rita Kaur at [rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg](mailto:rita.kaur@acsinternational.com.sg) .